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CHINA: BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION

Q: Anything new on Chinese sale of ballistic missiles?

R: -- As we have stated in the past, we are concerned with the proliferation of ballistic missiles to volatile regions such as the Middle East and South Asia.

-- During his visit to Beijing in July, Secretary Shultz expressed our concerns to Chinese leaders and urged them to cooperate in international efforts to curb the proliferation of ballistic missiles. In August, ACDA Director Burns followed up on the Secretary's discussions, stressing the destabilizing nature of this type of weapons system.

-- The Chinese have responded that they have ~~only~~ sold ballistic missiles ^{only} to Saudi Arabia. They have stated that China adopts a prudent and responsible attitude toward arms sales, which are evaluated in terms of whether they strengthen legitimate self-defense capabilities and are conducive to the peace, stability, and security of the region concerned.

-- Secretary Carlucci is now in China for meetings with Chinese leaders. Any questions regarding his discussions should be directed to his party in Beijing.